

# **CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION**

## **PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:**

On August 19, 2009, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited the California Correctional Institution at Tehachapi (CCI) to inquire into the condition and management of the facility according to Penal Code §919(b).

## **PROCESS:**

The Litigation Coordinator and the Public Information Officer (PIO) escorted the Committee to the Conference Room for a meeting with the majority of the CCI Management Staff. The Committee was given an overview of CCI by the acting Warden and several staff members. The Committee was then taken on an extensive tour of CCI including the Sensitive Needs Yard (SNY).

## **BACKGROUND:**

The California Correctional Institution was built in 1932 and opened in 1933 as a women's prison. After the 1952 earthquake the institution was refurbished and reopened in 1954 as a men's prison. The prison covers 1,800 acres and is located at 24900 Highway 202, Tehachapi, CA 93581 and functions as a general population prison and a reception center. Maximum capacity for the institution is 5,778 inmates and currently houses 5,647 inmates.

## **FINDINGS:**

1. Approximately 100 new inmates arrive weekly, are processed and assigned to permanent housing.
2. CCI broke ground on a new Water Treatment Plant in May of 2008 and is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2010.
3. The PIO officer has over 150 volunteers from religious to self-help programs. Volunteers come from Los Angeles, Tulare and Bakersfield.
4. The pharmacy at CCI has been upgraded to a state wide computerized system for medication dispensing. All medication is dispensed from the central pharmacy and sent to the various housing units for distribution. When a prisoner is transferred from one facility to another all medical records in the computerized program are transferred with no delay in inmate receiving his medications.

5. CCI has a contract with a medical provider for a recycled pill system. Beginning in May 2009 CCI received a credit of approximately \$19,000 for one month for discarded pills. The program will continue on a monthly basis. No one is allowed in the pharmacy except pharmacy personnel. No cameras are present and most likely will not be installed due to budget restrictions.
6. The proposed 500 bed addition at CCI has been put on hold indefinitely.
7. The State of California has implemented a three year plan to replace the 38 caliber revolvers with the 40 caliber semi-automatic hand guns, starting with the transfer officers, security teams, etc. until all 38 caliber hand guns have been replaced.
8. Medical records have not been centralized but the problem is being corrected.

#### **COMMENTS:**

The Law and Justice Committee commends the Litigation Coordinator as well as all the personnel who accompanied the Committee on the tour of CCI for professionalism, knowledge and courtesy.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The California Correctional Institution should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Note: Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed through the Kern County Library system and the Kern County Grand Jury website: [www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury)

#### **NO RESPONSE REQUIRED**